

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 607

By Davis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. of Johnson City upon the celebration of its 20th anniversary and to commend its officers, employees and volunteers for their laudable service to those in need.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and recognize those outstanding organizations which were created to serve those in economic need through a faith-based program of assistance; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding service organization is the Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. of Johnson City, Tennessee; a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1985, Good Samaritan is an inter-faith community-based ministry that coordinates contributions of time, money and goods to help those in need; and

WHEREAS, believing in the dignity and importance of each person, Good Samaritan's staff works with each individual to develop productive long-term solutions for their safety and well-being; in doing so, Good Samaritan sees its operations as contributing to "the support of the ministry of Jesus Christ...to provide relief for the poor, the sick and the destitute...to assist in raising funds for the general purpose and doctrines of Jesus Christ"; and

WHEREAS, Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. serves low-income individuals and families, homeless, elderly, disabled veterans, those re-establishing their lives after incarceration, and families with emergency needs in Washington, Carter, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan and Unicoi counties; immediate assistance is provided to clients in crisis situations and a local referral system is used to direct clients to other agencies if Good Samaritan is unable to assist; and

WHEREAS, Good Samaritan Ministries relies on donations and gifts from individuals, churches, civic organizations and corporate sponsors and channels government financial aid to

provide for rent, utilities, prescriptions, and other basic needs; Good Samaritan's services include a hot meal program (Our Daily Bread/Shepard's Lunch), food pantry, assistance with medication purchases, rent and utility payments and deposits, agency service coordination and referrals, summer food program for families with school-aged children, school supplies for children, Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance, Adopt-a-Family programs, consumer credit counseling and assistance with job search activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Good Samaritan Ministries served 77,111 persons or 64,661 cases with benevolence valued at \$750,369.94; the 25 congregations having an average of seven volunteers each provided 7,392 hours of work, that, if reimbursed at minimum wage, would be valued at \$38,068.80; and

WHEREAS, the 52 individual volunteers who staffed the pantry and offices contributed 6,203 hours worth \$31,945.45 at minimum wage rates; scores of other volunteers donated a large number of undocumented hours to various special seasonal programs, a factor which, along with volunteer efforts given by Board members, demonstrates a broad-based community support for these ministries; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2005, Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. observed its 20th anniversary of service to those in need in the region at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, and "Helping Hands of Service" Awards for 2004 were presented; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to take this occasion to specially honor Good Samaritan Ministries' two decades of fruitful service in the Vineyards of the Lord; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate the officers, staff and volunteers of Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. upon the recent celebration of their 20th anniversary in service to those less fortunate in upper East Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend all those involved in this ministry for their selfless contributions and dedication to carrying out the purposes of their faith-based

program and offer each of them our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.